



## ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE February 15, 2002

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- ! As mentioned in last week's update, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced that \$1.1 billion will be made available to states to help strengthen their capacity to respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies resulting from terrorism. The funds come from the \$2.9 billion bioterrorism appropriation bill that President Bush signed into law January 10. The following is the latest information on the grant process:
  - ! The amount for Illinois is \$42.2 million, with \$12.7 million directly allocated to the city of Chicago. The funds are allocated from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
  - ! The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will provide funding to all states to create regional hospital emergency plans. For Illinois, the amount is \$5.7 million, \$1.3 million of that for the city of Chicago.
  - ! Twenty percent of both awards will be provided in advance of grant implementation plans being approved. Formal notices on grant awards and associated program guidance will be sent to each state health director no later than February 15, 2002.
  - ! Implementation plans (grant application packages) are due to DHHS as early as March 15, 2002, but no later than April 15, 2002. DHHS has no more than 30 days to review the plans. Upon approval, the remaining 80 percent of funding can be made available.
- ! On February 25, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will conduct the second meeting of the Local Agency Rapid Implementation and Action Team (LARIAT) to discuss potential funding options/needs. Although official grant guidance from the DHHS has yet to be published, IDPH will actively seek input from its public health partners and begin reviewing various bioterrorism preparedness and readiness options. The LARIAT consists of one or more major local/county health departments for each Illinois Department of Public Health region that would incorporate significant population centers, hospitals, emergency medical personnel, airports, government

offices, availability of telecommunications capability, etc. The mission of the LARIAT is to promote local agency involvement, communication, and coordination of bioterrorism program implementation efforts.

! On October 24, the IDPH requested Local Agency Rapid Implementation and Action Team health departments representing the largest population jurisdictions develop a plan for the distribution of antibiotic prophylaxis to the general public in response to an act of bioterrorism. To date, 12 health departments have submitted local distribution plans to IDPH for review.

! In December, IDPH requested each of the remaining local health department (or combination of multiple agencies) to submit a plan for the receipt and distribution of antibiotic prophylaxis to the general public within their jurisdiction(s). Local health departments were strongly encouraged, where logistically feasible, to collaborate their preparedness activities with neighboring jurisdictions to maximize available resources. Plans approved by IDPH will be submitted to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency for final review. The local plan for the distribution of antibiotic prophylaxis must contain the following planning elements:

- ! An overview of local distribution system
- ! Primary and secondary point-of-contact for local distribution system
- ! Local material "drop site" (air and land accessible)
- ! Staffing at local "drop site" and distribution center(s)
- ! Security at local "drop site" and distribution center(s)
- ! Storage capacity at local "drop site"
- ! Transportation from local "drop site" to distribution center(s)
- ! Local emergency management integration

Local health departments are only required to develop a plan for the receipt and distribution of prepackaged containers of antibiotic prophylaxis to the general public. The other medical material contained within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) NPS will be distributed directly to hospitals by the state of Illinois. To date, a significant number of local health departments have submitted comprehensive local plans

! As of February 12, the Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,599 samples. All have been negative for anthrax.

! On February 11, the Illinois Department of Public Health presented a pilot of an educational

session for internal staff on the basic fundamentals for conducting an epidemiological investigation. The course is part of IDPH's ongoing preparedness activities to enhance its ability to manage a major disease outbreak. When finalized, the course will be presented internally to build a pool of staff capable of assisting with a disease investigation, including bioterrorism. The three-hour program will address fundamentals for epidemiology/surveillance, terms and definitions, review of case studies and an interviewing exercise. In the future, IDPH plans to offer this course to local health departments across Illinois.

- ! The Illinois Terrorism Task Force Aviation Sub Committee (ITTF-ASC) held its first meeting on February 11. The overall scope and objectives of the ITTF-ASC, its interactions with other governmental and aviation organizations, creation of an aviation advisory panel, and potential ways to address a number of issues facing general aviation in the state were discussed.
- ! The Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics continues to make inspections at selected airports. Airport managers are reminded to be vigilant as to suspicious personnel and/or operations at their facility.
- ! Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) has scheduled radiation/HAZMAT and hospital/ambulance training sessions in a half dozen communities during the next several weeks under its ongoing program to train police, fire, and medical personnel to deal with incidents involving radiation. For additional information contact the IDNS.
- ! Planning and training continues for the full-scale radiological emergency preparedness exercise with the LaSalle Station Nuclear Plant. The exercise, the first of three scheduled this year, is part of the annual exercise program conducted under the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents.
- ! Department of Agriculture staff from the Bureaus of Animal Health and Animal Welfare met with approximately 20 representatives of humane associations and animal control facilities from across the state on February 5. The purpose of the meeting was to review the state's animal disaster plan, making any updates necessary in light of the September 11 terrorist attacks. After discussing the existing plan and statewide needs, the group agreed to form a committee under the leadership of the Department's Bureau of Animal Welfare to make recommendations on

amendments to the plan. Since many disasters are limited in their geographic scope, a model county plan is intended to provide a template to improve preparedness on the local level.

! The Illinois Air National Guard (ILNG) began mobilization of members of the 183<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing. More than 300 airmen will be mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 183<sup>rd</sup>'s mission will be in various locations throughout Southwest Asia and the U.S. Central Command region.

! The ILNG continues to provide soldiers at 10 airport facilities around the state to assist security operations.

! The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) met with the Chicago Police Marine Unit and United States Coast Guard to discuss joint plans for Homeland Security in the Chicago area and on Lake Michigan. Development of a joint operational plan for coordinated patrols on the lake and within the Chicago area river system were discussed. Other issues included:

- ! Planning for law enforcement coverage of the several major marine events on Lake Michigan during the coming summer months.
- ! Planning for a tabletop exercise for a maritime emergency.
- ! Joint training related to maritime security and counter terrorism.

DNR will meet with the two marine law enforcement agencies each month to provide a coordinated law enforcement presence on the waters of the Chicago area.

! The following is the fifth in a series of practical tips offered by the U. S. State Department on how private citizens can individually contribute to the fight against terrorism by using their observation skills. This installment focuses on employers.

Terrorists sometimes seek employment in businesses where they can obtain information or material that can help them play or carry out their attacks. Hospitals, security installations, data processing facilities, chemical plants, aviation centers, and similar environments are particularly attractive. Terrorists who seek employment at such locations often provide references that are difficult to contact or evidence of prior work experience that is difficult to verify.

Terrorists who work in such locations often terminate their employment abruptly, with little or no notice. They may keep to themselves, rarely socializing with co-workers, and may seek opportunities to gain access to offices, information, and/or operations not customarily associated with their duties.

While these circumstances may be readily explained and do not singularly point

to terrorist involvement, cumulatively they may indicate suspicious activity. Employers who suspect their workers may be involved in terrorist activities are urged to contact law enforcement authorities to report their suspicions.